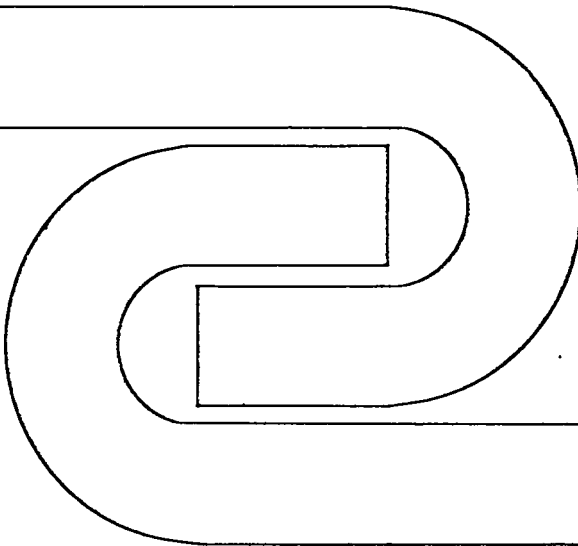


ECONOMIC AND SOCIAL COMMITTEE
OF THE EUROPEAN COMMUNITIES

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INTRODUCTION

PROSPECTS FOR THE 80s: EUROPEAN UNION AND ECONOMIC RECOVERY AT THE CENTRE OF ESC'S CONCERNS

European union, economic recovery in Europe and the re-establishment of full employment are what the European Community's Economic and Social Committee thinks should be the main political and economic goals for the Community in the next decade. In an own-initiative Opinion which it has just adopted, and which is part of the follow-up work to the Commission's mandate of 30 May 1980, the ESC declares that in view of the challenges with which it is confronted the Community must put into effect a coherent nucleus of priority economic and social policies calling for both the restoration of mutual confidence between the Member States and their leaders and the Community and, at a political level, solidarity with Community measures carried out by joint institutions and internal resources and which can no longer be carried out by the Member States alone.

More space than usual will be devoted to this Opinion, since it discusses issues of fundamental importance and was carried by a very large majority.

The Committee particularly stresses the need for the expansion and development of the following policies:

- Industrial policy;
- Social policy;
- Energy and research policy;
- Land planning and regional policy;
- Transport and consumer affairs policy;
- Environmental and leisure policy;
- Agricultural policy.

In all these areas the ESC recommends more direct action on the part of the Community.

All of these policies should be progressively incorporated into a multiannual legislative programme which should be the object of a Proposal from the Commission and lead to a mass debate — at a

political level — at the European Parliament and a detailed discussion with the economic and social forces represented on the Economic and Social Committee.

However, most of the policies listed above will only be fully effective if they are backed up by substantial Community financial commitments, although this still means that there must be greater efficiency in using appropriations and a higher yield from money which has been spent.

The ESC therefore wonders if the ceiling on the Community's income of 1% of all VAT receipts is compatible in the medium term with the development of new Community policies, such as energy or industrial policy, or if, in view of the transfers of powers and the relevant expenditure which seem likely in the next few years, it would not be more logical to allow the unfettered development of Community policies in areas where they may be more effective than national policies.



From left to right: Mr Louet, Secretary General of the ESC, Lord Trefgarne, President of the Council, Mr Roseingrave, ESC Chairman and Mr O'Kennedy, member of the Commission.

I

191st PLENARY SESSION

The Economic and Social Committee of the European Communities held its 191st Plenary Session at 2, rue Ravenstein, Brussels, on 28 and 29 October 1981. The Chairman, Mr Tomás Roseingrave, presided.

The Session was attended by Lord Trefgarne, Minister of State for Foreign Affairs and President of the Council, and by Commissioner O'Kennedy, who participated in the debate on Prospects for the 1980s.

ADOPTION OF OPINIONS

1. PROSPECTS FOR THE 80's (own-initiative Opinion)

"Prospects for the Communities' Policies in the 1980s"

This Opinion was prompted by the desire of the economic and social interests represented on the ESC to make known their main points of concern with regard to the future of the European Community. As such, it was seen as an effective contribution to the review embarked on by the Community's bodies in connection with the Commission's Mandate of 30 May 1980.

This contribution comes at a time when the economic and social policies for the next ten years are being formulated.

Gist of the Opinion⁽¹⁾

The Community is having to face a number of challenges in the 1980s:

- on the economic and social front, unemployment is rising, economic and social inequalities are growing, ground is being lost to other large industrialized countries and the Community's economic structures are ill-equipped to cope with the rises in energy prices and technological change.

(1) CES 1078/81.

- on the political and institutional front, there is a lack of solidarity between the Member States, who are incapable of transforming either the guidelines set by the European Council or the initiatives taken by the Commission or the European Parliament into Council of Minister decisions. This shows that the political will to attain the underlying objectives of the Community is lacking;
- on the world economic front, the rise of the new industrialized countries and the redistribution of wealth are symptomatic of the sweeping changes now taking place;
- with regard to the Community's financial resources, the limit on the money available for spending is going to be reached very shortly (1982-83);
- with regard to the Community's new geographical dimension, the two enlargements that took place in 1973 and 1981 and the prospects of a third enlargement have not brought about the requisite changes in either the Council's decision-making machinery or the other institutions' internal structures and administration with the result that the Community seems to be becoming more and more "ungovernable".

The Committee has endeavoured to outline how the Community could respond to these challenges.

This response should take the form of proper policies for the Community and greater convergence between national economic and social policies.

Getting the Community's economy moving again and providing more jobs are considered by the Committee to be the chief aims on the economic and social front.

Accordingly, Europe must mobilize all the resources at its disposal (in technology, inventive capacity, labour and capital) to give a new impetus to economic activity. It must therefore fight inflation, strengthen the Community market and make its industries and the other sectors of its economy (e.g. distribution network, services, tourist industry, agriculture) more competitive.

In addition, the Community must remain the expression of a Europe which has a sufficient sense of solidarity to offer a satisfactory standard of living to all its citizens with an eye to safeguarding and, if possible, improving present levels of prosperity.

The Committee hopes that these objectives will be part of the political objectives of European Union which are to be developed during the 1980s.

In this context, it places emphasis on the strengthening and development of the following policies:

Industrial policy

This should be aimed at development and the completion of the internal market and should include the abolition of all types of barriers, a more open public purchasing policy and the elimination of investment bottlenecks in certain industries.

Absolute priority must be given to framing a selective policy for private and public investments likely to create favourable conditions for an economic recovery.

This action must be part of a "grand design" embracing various Community measures and taking account of the initiatives of the Member States. This grand design will focus on manufacturing industry and, in particular, on small and medium-sized businesses which are very innovative and consequently have a job-creating potential.

In particularly promising areas, such as energy production, energy saving, the environment, data processing and communications, micro-electronics and, in certain Member States, building, stress must be laid on speeding up both Community research and the financing of certain pilot schemes.

In order to ease the re-organization and running-down of certain industries, the Community should draw on existing schemes, e.g. its special retraining assistance for the redundant, the relaxation of the rules on competition as laid down in the Treaties and the progressive limitation of State aids.

External Economic Relations

The Community must pursue an outward-looking trade policy and policy of cooperation with the rest of the world without, however, losing sight of its own interests.

In order to facilitate the access of European industry to the markets in other industrialized countries the Community should provide European exporters with specific back-up information. EEC delegations overseas should be equipped to provide a constant stream of industrial, technological and scientific information on local investment trends and technical developments.

Social policy

The Community's social policy in the 1980s must be made operational through appropriate regulating decisions and the mobilization of

adequate financial resources. It must include wide-ranging consultations between the Community institutions and the two sides of industry organized at European level.

There should therefore be European "guideline-directives" laying down the general goals to be achieved, which would be implemented at national or sectoral level in accordance with normal procedures. "Concerted action" at European level between the two sides of industry on their own initiative and backed up by the Commission should lead to the conclusion of negotiated "framework agreements".

There should be more basic and specialist training schemes for young people and more retraining schemes for certain categories of workers. This would reduce unemployment and help towards the introduction of new production methods and new technologies.

In this context, European solidarity must be developed by strengthening the role of the European Social Fund. Intervention by the ESF must also cover the retraining of workers in ailing sectors and the training of highly skilled workers for certain advanced technologies.

Ways must be found of permitting real worker mobility between sectors and within the Community. Illegal immigration must be stopped.

In order to utilize available labour more efficiently, there should be a proper stocktaking of "available work".

More use must be made of the opportunities offered by the European communicating system for jobs available and jobs wanted (SEDOC).

A European "framework agreement" should form the basis for the gradual reduction in annual working hours, it being left to the different Member States and economic sectors to decide on the means to be used (e.g. reducing the working week, giving longer holidays, re-arranging shift work, etc.).

Among other measures to be taken in the 1980s, the Committee mentions the strengthening of worker information, consultation and participation in firms and measures to help families, old people and the disabled, which often have an encouraging effect on Member States' legislation.

The Community's social policy must be developed hand in hand with its other priority policies.

Energy and Research Policy

The Community should hasten the formulation of a common energy policy.

The Community must concentrate on drafting a programme for advanced research with the aim of systematically developing traditional and alternative sources of energy on its own territory (solar, geothermal, winds, tides and bioenergy) and promoting energy conservation.

As in the past, the Community's research programme must cover:

- energy;
- certain aspects of the environment and recreation;
- raw materials;
- agriculture;
- certain industrial sectors.

Additional topics could include oceanic research and biology.

The findings of these research programmes must lead in the medium term to investments in the sectors in question and thus to the creation of new jobs. They must also be made more readily accessible to smaller firms.

Physical Planning and Regional Policy

Special attention will have to be paid to closing the gap between regions at the centre of the EEC and those on the periphery.

The Community must re-orientate its regional policy. The emphasis will have to be placed on development programmes for co-ordinating the funding of individual projects in specific regions more effectively and on a concentration of aid in the least well-off regions; the European Regional Fund must be provided with adequate resources.

Truly Community measures of the integrated action type must be made possible by boosting the non-quota section of the ERDF and bringing in other Community financial instruments.

Transport and Communications Policy

The geographical expansion of the Community means that the Community must play a bigger role in improving transit routes and links with the outlying regions, as a complement to the development of existing infrastructures.

Quality of life

Following the Community's initial guidelines as regards the environment and nature conservation, certain Community research programmes to promote environmental protection must be implemented in the years to come, thereby helping to harmonize production conditions and terms of competition.

The exchange of information on a European scale in the field of cultural and leisure activities could lead the Community to draw up a research programme.

The Community is not just an economic union. It must be seen as a living reality by each citizen. It is therefore essential that concrete measures, affecting everyone's daily lives, be taken, e.g. improvement of border-crossing facilities and the introduction of European passports and driving licences.

Agricultural Policy

The Common Agricultural Policy must be pursued in harmony with all other policies and must comply with the general aims of Community policies.

The Community must, as in the past, abide by the three principles on which the different market organizations are based, namely:

- single markets and prices;
- financial solidarity; and
- Community preference.

The Common Agricultural Policy must be compatible with Article 110 of the Treaty, which aims at the harmonious development of world trade. In addition, in accordance with what was agreed at the conference of Stresa, equilibrium between supply and demand must be a major objective.

The different elements of the Common Agricultural Policy must be developed in a more harmonious manner. In addition to markets and prices policy, social, commercial and structural aspects must be more important in future.

There should be a detailed study of the effects which result from the different market organizations. The maintenance of an appropriate standard of living for farmers must not rule out measures designed to improve the management of certain markets.

The Community must take more account of the international dimensions of the Common Agricultural Policy by progressively bringing in a policy for exporting farm produce in accordance with the Community's own interests and the legitimate interests of other exporters.

Information Policy

Community decisions must be presented and communicated to the mass media as an expression of Community policy.

To achieve this aim, there is a need for a high degree of consistency in the presentation of information. The Community needs to have its own "house style" which can be easily recognized by any European, whatever the Member State he or she belongs to.

Planning of Community Policies

A multiannual programme of legislation, which embraces all the Community policies, sketched out above, should be the subject of a proposal from the European Commission, spark off a wide-ranging mass debate at a political level in the European Parliament, and lead to an in-depth discussion with the economic and social forces represented on the Economic and Social Committee.

The Community Institutions and the Demands of the 1980s

The European Union to be worked towards in the 1980s should be based on the existing Treaties, secondary Community legislation, jointly determined guidelines, relations with other regions of the world and the various facets of European cooperation in the political and security fields.

In the light of experience it might prove necessary to adapt certain provisions of the Treaties by strengthening the powers of the Community and protecting fairly the rights of minorities. It will be interesting here to see what initiatives will be taken by the European Parliament.

The Community institutions must therefore use their powers to the full right now and progressively adjust to the demands of such a Union (see too the ESC Opinion on the Report on the European Institutions).

The Community is a political commitment, not just a customs union. It must be constantly presented as such to its citizens, and this must be a primary responsibility of all its institutions.

Their common duty is to design a balanced and consistent set of Community policies which accommodates the legitimate interests of the Member States and their peoples but which is not based merely on a juxtaposition of the different national interests.

Thus the need to decide in accordance with the rules of the Treaty would be more evident to those who at the present time hang on at all costs to the right of veto.

The Financing of Priority Community Policies

Community measures designed in the interests of greater efficiency to replace national measures — though not at the cost of an increase in personal and company tax burdens — should be incorporated in a

binding multi-annual programme (see above) which will replace the over-fragmentary approach of the past.

Other measures should complement national measures.

However, most of the policies listed above will only be fully effective if they are given substantial financial backing by the Community, although money must be used more effectively and expenditure must provide a greater return.

The ESC therefore wonders whether a limitation of the Community's income to a ceiling of 1% of VAT receipts is compatible with the medium-term development of new EEC policies, or whether it would not be more logical to allow the development of Community policies in areas where such may be more effective than national policies.

This Opinion, adopted by 95 votes in favour, 7 votes against and 2 abstentions, was based on work prepared by a Sub-Committee under the chairmanship of Mr Vanni (Italy - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr De Bruyn (Belgium - Various Interests).

Summary of the Speech by Mr O'Kennedy, Member of the Commission

Mr O'Kennedy, Member of the Commission, first of all expressed his appreciation of the Committee's contribution to the Commission's mandate of 30 May. He briefly recalled that the reflections on the mandate fall into three main areas — agricultural policy, non-agricultural policies and the budget. He then informed the Committee of the Commission's recent meeting, after which specific proposals were put forward, covering

- Agricultural Policy
- Industrial Policy
- Mediterranean Policy
- Regional Policy
- Social Policy.

Commissioner O'Kennedy stressed that the growing unemployment had been at the forefront of the Commission's review of its policies. This also applies to agriculture, for which the Commission regards any drift from the land as inappropriate, and emphasizes the need to increase the share of processed products in the Community's agricultural exports in the interest of job creation. Mr O'Kennedy also gave special attention to the milk sector, and specifically referred to the problem of disposing of the output of milk from the so-called factory farms based on cheap cereal substitutes, which has grown significantly in recent years.

He then referred to the Commission's projects as regards job promotion, which concentrate on maximising the employment opportunities for the young and on using to the full the job potential of smaller businesses. The Commission's proposals on industrial strategy, technological innovation and the internal market are also geared to creating employment. In the area of regional policy, the Commission also aims at reaching a maximal impact on employment, particularly in the less developed regions and those suffering from industrial decline.

Finally, the Commissioner expressed his conviction that the above-mentioned policies cannot be fully implemented within the artificial limit of the current ceiling on the Community budget and he particularly welcomed the Committee's support in encouraging the Council to remove this budgetary constraint at an early date.

Summary of Speech by Mr Staratzke, Chairman of Group I (Employers)

The Chairman of the Employers' Group, Mr Staratzke, stressed that the Members of Group I had refrained from making any amendments or additions in order not to jeopardize the Opinion. They were not in agreement with parts of the Opinion, however. He made the following statement on their behalf.

"Group I accepts that the question of a reduction in working hours must be discussed by employers and workers and that there is scope for discussion at European level. However, there could be no decisions at that level. The workers' and employers' associations at EEC level do not have the authority to take decisions which are binding on their members. The decisions must be reached between the usual negotiating parties in the individual Member States. The Commission is accordingly not in a position to do anything more than bringing both sides of industry together. All references to EEC outline Directives or outline agreements should accordingly be omitted.

The members of Group I are very much in favour of informing and consulting workers. They do, however, take the view that as the legislation, traditions and practices of Member States differ so considerably, the time is not yet ripe for a Community initiative. A draft Directive on the subject, which is currently being discussed by the Economic and Social Committee, has already made it quite clear that the Committee is sharply divided on this question. It accordingly seems inappropriate to refer to this matter in an Opinion which should set out the general views of the Committee as to developments in the next decade."

Summary of Speech by Mr Debunne, Chairman of Group II (Workers)

On behalf of the Workers' Group, Mr Debunne, the Group Chairman, made the following statement:

"The overall purpose of the Committee Opinion is to reinforce the Community's work and render it more consistent and forceful.

As to the priority to be accorded to "investment" expenditure as compared with public and private "consumer" expenditure, we have again and again made it clear that the two approaches should be fully compatible.

Economic growth and recovery, as we see them, presuppose:

- a boost in domestic demand by maintaining and stepping up purchasing power, first and foremost by specific measures to assist the low income groups;
- increased joint investments by private industry and the public sector and greater expenditure on social services, especially housing, education and training, health and protection of the environment, with the twofold aim of improving living conditions and creating new jobs;
- developing major infrastructure projects, which are a prerequisite for giving genuine impetus to the economy (transport, communications, and so on).

The small and medium-sized enterprises would be in a stronger position to create new jobs since a large share of the increased domestic demand would go to them.

As for the external component, the Community must put its entire economic and political weight behind an external policy aimed at implementing a wide-ranging international programme to develop and equip the IDCs. Only in this way will it be possible to achieve a more equitable international order. This is also a decisive factor in getting the world economy off to a fresh start.

The most important thing is to help these countries to help themselves so as to satisfy their own requirements in the first instance, before re-exporting their produce to the industrialized countries.

Among the policies considered for the purpose of backing up job creation measures, greater emphasis is placed on training and mobility. These factors improve individual chances of finding a job but do little to remedy the employment crisis: the disastrous unemployment situation must be tackled by more energetic strategies. Shorter working hours is one major component of a solution to this worrying state of affairs,

where a totally unacceptable number of people, particularly the young and women, are unable to find work”.

Here Mr Debunne stressed the need for effective cooperation between management and labour and the public authorities.

He continued his statement with the following words: “Before speaking about the sacrifices that could be asked of those who currently have a job, as recommended in the Opinion, it would seem to us to be more appropriate to consider a more equitable system of apportionment. Some of the assets of the well-off should be diverted to the needy in a spirit of true solidarity.

Lastly, to stick to essentials, it must be said that not enough attention is given to the potential contribution of rational deployment of energy resources. Monitoring the multinationals’ supplies and independent safety checks have been overlooked. No mention is made in connection with energy prices, protecting low cost charges or satisfying basic household requirements.

All in all, energy policy should be seen in the general context of public service and utility. Here transport (an infrastructure of major Community significance) should command a prominent place.”

Summary of Speech by Mr Hilkens, Member of Group III (Various Interests) (Consumers)

Speaking for consumers, Mr Hilkens, member of the Various Interests Group, stated inter alia:

“We have an extremely difficult but important issue which concerns the basis of our society. There is a dramatic and inadmissible level of unemployment, and a tendency to protectionism — both at domestic and external level.

It is of great importance that the Committee on which all social groups are represented, should consider this issue. The main value of the paper before us is that it reflects a willingness to act together. How this is to be done is still not clear; the paper does not offer a finalized solution. It sets out a number of recommendations. I have accepted the proposal that no amendments should be tabled in order to ensure a joint, unanimous standpoint.

My comments are concerned with the section on the quality of life. I agree with the statements made in this section, but my problem is that they do not say nearly enough. The quality of life is not a marginal phenomenon but an integral component of economic policy. This quality of life must not remain an empty slogan. To a large extent it is

covered by consumer policy. If I defend this I am in good company. The Council of Ministers stated in its Resolution on the second consumer programme: Improvement of the quality of life is one of the tasks of the Community. This task involves the protection of health and safety and the economic interests of the consumer. The importance of this issue in the present economic situation is brought out by a statement in the second consumer programme which was adopted by the Council: In the present difficult economic situation — characterized by small income increases, persistent structural unemployment and the various economic repercussions of energy dependence which confront most of the Member States — the consumer is forced to spend his income more thoughtfully, and to pay more attention to the qualitative aspects of goods and services. In this light, special importance attaches to the measures to protect consumers in the field of the quality of goods and services, the conditions under which these are offered, and information thereon.

Some want consumer policy to be shelved because there are so many other important problems. It looks as if both the Commission and the Council will go along with this. Examples are provided by a number of draft consumer-policy directives which are before the Council but not being worked on. The Commission has taken back the Draft Directive on Toy Safety for further consideration. There are even attempts, where consumer protection is involved, to give preference to the free market. I admit that in the present situation it is difficult to strike a balance between the needs of the open market and the harmonization of laws. But there can be no question of consumer protection being sacrificed in the interests of the open market.

The Draft Opinion states that the citizens are losing confidence in the Community. A European passport and driving licence are proposed in order to satisfy the man in the street. If this is really the intention, a whole lot more must be done. The citizens of the Community are calling for a policy which will lead to a high quality of life."

Summary of Speech by Mr Laur (Various Interests) (Agriculture)

Mr Laur (Various Interests) pointed out that the Study Group on Prospects for the 80s contained only one representative of agricultural activities and stated that the Opinion should in no way prejudge the results of the work on the CAP being carried out by the Committee. He wished to express the following reservations on behalf of farmers:

- the comparison set out in the Opinion between the number of unemployed and the size of working population engaged in

agriculture must indicate the importance of agriculture to the Community;

- the multi-annual production targets should be better defined;
- it would be an illusion to think that surpluses could be eliminated;
- a movement in prices determined by market developments was not acceptable;
- whilst priority had to be given to investment expenditure, attention had still to be paid to stimulating a selective revival of expenditure on consumption;
- the diversification of Community activity proposed in the Opinion was supported by farmers, provided that new finance was made available;
- the new world economic order should not represent a confrontation of interests with the EEC as the victim; it should rather provide an opportunity for the Community to play a constructive role.

Summary of Speech by Mr Margot (Various Interests) (SMEs)

Mr Margot (Various Interests), speaking on behalf of SMEs (small and medium-sized enterprises) made, *inter alia*, the following points:

“The representative of SMEs endorse the Draft Opinion on Prospects for the 80s as a whole, although where reference is made to “industrial policy” they would have preferred to see “economic policy”, since it is not only industry but also agriculture, commerce and services that must contribute to the economic revival.

We have noted that the Commission, too, recognizes the importance of SMEs, as is evident from the Report on the Mandate of May 1980 and the speech by Commissioner O’Kennedy.

There is a growing realization in Europe and elsewhere that SMEs can play a major role in the creation of employment. In the USA, for example, 80% of the new jobs created in the last two years are in the SME sector, and for the most part even in firms with less than 25 employees.

The craft and SME organizations welcome the recognition of the role they have to play today and tomorrow in combating the crisis and stimulating economic development. They have only one wish — that the action be suited to the words and that the concern to promote the development of SMEs find expression not merely in speeches and statements of intent.

We note that at present only three of the 10,000 civil servants of the European Institutions have been assigned the task of monitoring the problems of SMEs and integrating their specific needs in an overall policy.

The representatives of SMEs are not in favour of a large bureaucracy, not even where their own interests are involved, but they do think that a properly equipped SME department must be set up with the task of stimulating — in consultation with representative crafts and SME organizations — the policy to be pursued in this area, both as regards the sphere of competence of the Commission itself and as regards the policy of the Member States.

The Community Directives, the financial assistance measures, the measures in the areas of vocational training, regional development and in connection with the relations with third countries, must be attuned to the specific problems, needs and possibilities of SMEs so as to promote a contribution by these firms to the creation of jobs and the production and supply of goods and services that meet the diverse needs of consumers.

This seems to me to be an important task for the 80s, not only from the point of view of more than narrow group interest but also from the angle of true common interest.”

Summary of Speech by Lord Trefgarne, President of the Council

In his capacity as Chairman of the Council, Lord Trefgarne, Parliamentary Under Secretary of State, Foreign and Commonwealth Office, first of all stressed that the Commission had rightly interpreted their mandate in terms of the broad development of the Community policies. The mandate offers an improved opportunity to give new impetus to the Community which should tackle effectively the major social, industrial and economic problems, namely unemployment and inflation, which it presently faces. He expressed his conviction that there is a great deal of common ground among all concerned as to the areas in which further progress should be made.

As far as the 1% ceiling is concerned, however, Lord Trefgarne insisted that it is the general view of the Council that this ceiling must be maintained as the point of discipline necessary to re-examine current priorities. In a situation where all Member States are suffering from severe budgetary restraints, the Community cannot spend its way out of trouble.

A central element in the mandate is a thorough review of the operation of all existing policies but particularly the Common Agricultural Policy. There is general agreement that the basic principles of the CAP must be respected and that nothing should be done to dismantle the policy's considerable achievements. Conditions have, however, changed since its creation and adjustments are necessary.

As far as the budgetary problem is concerned, it is important for the Community to have a sound financial basis and to avoid continuing divisive arguments over the net contributions of the Member States. In the long term, this problem should be reduced by the development of a more balanced set of Community policies as they have been stressed by the Economic and Social Committee, i.e. Regional Development, Social Policy, Transport, Energy, assistance with the problems of industrial adjustment and regeneration. If the Community is to make progress with such a range of policies, it must start with satisfactory budget arrangements.

In his conclusions, Lord Trefgarne stressed the necessity of a genuine political will to find solutions, and he endorsed the central message of the Committee's Opinion that urgent action must be taken to improve the Community's capacity to cope with the major problems of economic and industrial adjustment which confront Europe.

2. MEMORANDUM ON REGIONAL POLICY

"New Regional Policy guidelines and priorities"

Gist of the Commission's Communication

The first Periodic Report on the Economic and Social Situation of the Regions⁽¹⁾ showed that regional disparities had increased. The Commission has set out the following future guidelines for regional policy which are based on the Periodic Report and which have been drawn up as part of the Commission's obligations under the mandate of 30 May 1980:

- a solution to the regional problems should be sought as part of the general endeavour to improve the competitiveness and productivity of the Community's economy;
- regional policy should consist of something more than simply financial transfers from the rich regions to the poor regions;

⁽¹⁾ The Committee will consider this Report in detail in an additional Opinion.

- absolute priority should be given to reducing unemployment by creating productive jobs;
- the local resources and adaptability (“human capital”) of each of the regions being considered should be exploited;
- aid from the current quota section of the European Regional Development Fund (ERDF) should be concentrated on the regions suffering from serious structural underdevelopment;
- broader and more flexible use should be made of the non-quota section of the Fund;
- there is a need for consultations and consistency at all levels, be they sectoral, national or Community levels; there is a need to respect the principle of “additionality” and to introduce “contract programmes”; all this implies that the Commission will take on tasks resembling those of a development agency.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

The options and priorities which the European Commission has laid down in the field of regional policy have just been given the support of the Economic and Social Committee in an Opinion, adopted by a large majority (2 votes against). Among these priorities are job creation, greater emphasis on support for indigenous development and the geographical concentration of resources.

The Committee does, however, draw attention to certain consequences connected with these priorities:

- Against an economic background in which all the Member States, and consequently all the regions also, are endeavouring to restore growth and reduce unemployment, the measures to help less-favoured regions must achieve the same aims much more quickly and the rates of growth in the regions must be higher; the Member States must be convinced that aid to less-favoured regions is a means of revitalizing the economy in general;
- The Committee stresses that the priority to be attached by the ERDF to the creation of jobs must be observed by all the EC instruments, and particularly by the Social Fund, which in many cases is seen as providing a necessary and obvious complement to regional development work. The role of the European Investment Bank in this respect appears to the Committee to be rather secondary and exaggerated;

(1) CES 1072/81.

- As smaller firms, craft industries, tourism and services offer the best possibilities of creating jobs in the less-favoured regions, the revision of the ERDF Regulation and the implementation of other sectoral policies must assist the access of smaller firms to productive activity. The Committee also stresses the need to consider decentralizing the location of small, high-technology industries which are not dependent upon the presence of raw materials and transport infrastructures and transferring them to the less-favoured regions;
- Aid in respect of infrastructures, the extent of which was no doubt justified in the past, must now be more balanced, given the current economic situation and in order to make it possible to give more aid to investments in industry and services which create jobs directly;
- The Committee stresses the importance of the basic principle of Community solidarity, without which the new guidelines, and in particular the concentration of measures in order to make them more effective, would lead nowhere;
- The Committee fully approves the Commission's wish to act as a development agency.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Regional Development under the chairmanship of Mr Milne (United Kingdom - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Loebel (United Kingdom - Employers).

3. LAYING HENS

“Proposal for a Council Directive laying down minimum standards for the protection of laying hens kept in battery cages”

Gist of the Commission proposal

The Proposal seeks to ensure that, in future, the cages used to house laying hens are constructed in a way which is more compatible with the basic needs of the birds, and that, in particular, each hen has a space of at least 500 cm².

However, allowances are made for time needed to amortize existing equipment and investments, and cages presently in use may be used until 1995.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

Without underestimating the value of proposals concerned with animal protection, the Committee does not consider that this is a

⁽¹⁾ CES 1076/81.

priority objective of the Rome Treaty. The Commission must not give the impression that it is more concerned with the protection of animals than that of human beings.

If, despite the reservations expressed, the Commission's proposals are accepted as they stand, there will inevitably be adverse repercussions on the activity of numerous Community producers without there being any guarantee of an appreciable improvement in the living conditions of battery hens.

The Committee urges the Commission to ensure that, during an adequately long transition period, the provisions on existing and new installations are not of such a nature as to generate competition distortions.

This Opinion, adopted unanimously less 7 abstentions, was based on material prepared by the Section for Agriculture, under the chairmanship of Mr Emo Capodilista (Italy - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Jakobsen (Denmark - Various Interests).

4. LABELLING OF FOODSTUFFS

“Proposal for a Council Directive on the approximation of the laws of the Member States relating to claims made in the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer”

Gist of the Proposal

The present Proposal flows from the 1979 Directive relating to the labelling, presentation and advertising of foodstuffs for sale to the ultimate consumer.

Its aim is to define the claims that are allowed to appear on labelling under the terms of the Directive, and to establish a non-exhaustive list of prohibited or restricted claims.

The Proposal also lays down the procedure for updating these lists.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In an Opinion, adopted by 50 votes in favour and 40 votes against, the Committee, while welcoming the Commission's wish to give consumers improved protection against misleading advertising, wonders whether

⁽¹⁾ CES 1075/81.

it might perhaps have been better not to submit this proposal to the Council until the Directive on misleading advertising had been adopted and the provisions of the basic directive fully incorporated into national law.

It also felt the need to make it clear that the generally applicable rule in advertising, that the advertiser must bear the burden of proof, should apply only in specific cases where objective and measurable facts are advanced in support of a claim.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for the Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, under the chairmanship of Miss Roberts (United Kingdom - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Jaschick (Germany - Various Interests).

5. CONTAINERS OF LIQUIDS

“Proposal for a Council Directive on containers of liquids for human consumption”

Gist of the proposed Directive

The proposal for a Directive is part of the Community's work on the rational control of solid waste; such control is necessary from both the economic and the environmental point of view. Since its basic aim is to reduce the amount of containers of liquids for human consumption in household waste and to encourage a better recovery of these containers, the proposal requires the Member States to fix objectives for reducing waste and to inform the Commission of the means used to achieve these targets and the results obtained.

On the basis of the data and statistics supplied by the Member States the Commission will assess the progress made and, where appropriate, consider the case for additional measures.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In an Opinion, adopted by 109 votes in favour, 6 votes against and 13 abstentions, the Committee approves the general objectives of the proposed Directive, although it notes a number of shortcomings due, in its view, to insufficient experience in this area and of the consequences of the measures recommended.

⁽¹⁾ CES 1077/81.

The Committee regrets, however, that consultation with the economic and social interest groups did not continue right through to the final version of the proposed Directive.

It also expressly calls on the Commission to appoint a back-up committee comprising all the interested parties which would periodically receive the reports and be informed of the objectives referred to in the Directive.

Regarding the substance of the proposed Directive, the Committee insists that no container material and no process for eliminating liquid containers as waste, whether it be recycling or refilling, be discriminated against as a result of the emphasis placed on the idea of the "recoverable" container. For the rest, the recovery of containers is regarded as a priority, where this is possible.

Furthermore, account must be taken both of the need to reduce as much as possible the financial impact of the operation for consumers, manufacturers and distributors, and of considerations of consumer health and safety.

Finally, some form of contact with the local authorities responsible for implementing environmental policy should be envisaged; the Committee would also like to receive a report drawn up by the Commission on the basis of the data received periodically from the national governments.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for the Protection of the Environment, Public Health and Consumer Affairs, under the chairmanship of Miss Roberts (United Kingdom - Various Interests). The Rapporteur was Mr Hatry (Belgium - Employers).

6. TOURIST ASSISTANCE

"Proposal for a Council Directive amending the first Directive 73/239/EEC on the coordination of laws, regulations and administrative provisions relating to the taking-up and pursuit of the business of direct insurance other than life assurance, particularly as regards tourist assistance"

Gist of the Commission's proposal

In recent years there has been a big increase in business trips and, above all, in tourism. Similarly, there has been a veritable explosion in the number of contracts offering travellers assistance of various kinds if they should fall ill, suffer an accident or experience other difficulties

while abroad. Such offers are made either by specialist organizations or by other bodies, particularly motoring clubs.

National governments have felt there is a need to exercise a certain control over bodies offering such services. The public needs to be assured that an organization offering assistance contracts is really capable of fulfilling its engagements.

But the Member States have disagreed on whether or not such offers should be considered as a form of insurance. Some have argued that basically they are, since they are a contract under which a person who fears the adverse consequences of an uncertain event pays a fixed sum in advance to a firm which promises to provide certain services if such an event should occur. Others have drawn a clear distinction between insurance and assistance.

These differences of approach have not only proved irritating to the man in the street, they have also led to practical difficulties between Member States. It is therefore the aim of the present proposal to make various changes to the First Directive coordinating the rules relating to accident insurance, which lays down standard conditions under which a firm recognized as an insurer in its home state can set up a branch or agency in another Member State.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾.

In an Opinion, adopted by 75 votes in favour with 9 against and 10 abstentions, the Committee supports the objectives contained in the proposal, but considers that they would be better achieved through a specific directive. While there are certain similarities between tourist assistance and insurance (commitment to provide services in the event of difficulties, subject to advance payment of a fixed sum), there are also a number of basic differences, which are detailed in the Opinion.

Given the growth in tourist assistance there is a need to supervise firms and organizations operating in this sector. The general public must have some guarantee that such organizations are genuinely capable of honouring their commitments. A specific directive should be enacted for this area. Tourist assistance should not be lumped together with insurance as this would inevitably have fiscal and social repercussions. The Committee believes that it is possible for the Member States to assign responsibility for monitoring tourist assistance firms to the bodies responsible for monitoring insurance companies.

(1) CES 1073/81.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services, under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr De Bruyn (Belgium - Various Interests).

7. RAILWAY POLICY FOR THE 80s

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) setting the time limit and conditions for the achievement of financial balance by railway undertakings”; the

“Proposal for a Council Decision (EEC) amending Decision 75/327/EEC on the improvement of the situation of railway undertakings and the harmonization of rules governing financial relations between such undertakings and states (COM) (80) 906 final”; and the

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1191/69 on action by Member States concerning the obligations inherent in the concept of a public service in transport by rail, road and inland waterway (COM) (80) 907 final”.

Gist of the Commission proposals

On 19 december 1980 the Commission submitted to the Council a Communication entitled “Community Railway Policy: Review and Outlook for the 1980’s”. This Document was drawn up against the background of the deteriorating financial and market position of the railways in the Member States. It surveys the situation of the railways and their performance in recent years and indicates their prospects on the transport market.

The Committee was not asked for an Opinion on this communication. Nevertheless this document can provide valuable background information for an examination of the Commission proposals based on this Communication, whose conclusions stress that:

- Council Decision 75/327/EEC of 20 May 1975 remains the basis for the general framework of railway policy;
- in an initial phase proposals are to be made under Article 15 (1) of this Decision concerning the achievement of financial balance (cf. Doc. (COM)(80) 906 final) and under Article 15 (2) concerning the obligations inherent in the concept of a public service (cf. Doc. (COM)(80) 907 final).

Within this framework fall also proposals for:

- developing combined transport;
- laying down principles for costing railway infrastructure.

In a later phase there are to be supplementary proposals (State intervention, common research programme, closer cooperation and integration).

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In its Opinion, adopted by a large majority (1 vote against), the Committee welcomes the Commission's endeavours to lay down clearly defined criteria in the field of infrastructure aid. However, it fears that the formulae proposed for this purpose might be too difficult to apply.

The Committee also feels that there is a need for rules for State financial intervention to cover the deficits of railway firms. But it thinks that the 1982 deadline for standardizing railway accounts (Article 5 of the Commission proposal on financial equilibrium) is unattainable, and that this goal will have to be achieved in stages.

Finally, the Committee is pleased with the Commission's attempt to define exactly what is meant by the obligation to provide a public service ("adequate transport services involving the least cost to the general public").

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Hennig (Germany - Various Interests).

8. GENERALIZED TARIFF PREFERENCES 1982

"Proposal to the Council fixing the Community's scheme of generalized tariff preferences for the period 1982 to 1985 and opening the scheme applicable in 1982"

Gist of the Commission proposals

The new Proposals show little change from the scheme currently in force.

Once again, the biggest change proposed by the Commission concerns agriculture. Here the Commission is proposing:

- improvements in preferential margins on 45 products already included in the GSP, six of which would henceforth become duty free. Among products of particular importance in trade terms

(¹) CES 1071/81.

- included in these Proposals are: certain spices, e.g. pepper, neither crushed nor ground and cinnamon — other; castor oil; unrefined palm oil intended for technical or industrial use; other sauces; cigars and cigarillos.
- the inclusion of nine new products: certain unrooted cuttings, slips, trees and shrubs and certain other parts of trees, shrubs, etc.; pineapple juice; spirituous beverage of the types Pisco and Sangani.
 - for the least-developed countries only, the inclusion of five new products dutyfree and the removal of the remaining preferential limits on the quota for Virginia-type tobacco, the ceiling on other tobacco and the two quotas on canned pineapples; and
 - the extension to the People's Republic of China of the GSP offer available to all other beneficiaries.

For industrial products, the Commission is proposing that the number of products from Rumania and China allowed to benefit from the GSP should be increased.

For textile products no change is proposed, as discussions are in progress on a few MFA.

Finally, the Commission is re-submitting its Proposals of last year concerning the management of the GSP by a procedure involving a management committee. It has once more announced proposals regarding minimum labour standards and confirmed the traditional supplementary measures providing for the organization of seminars and the publication of a guide to promote the GSP.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

This Opinion was adopted by 50 votes in favour and 4 votes against.

The Committee supports the Commission's proposals but has strong reservations about extending GSP benefits to state-trading countries such as China and Rumania and further liberalization in the field of agriculture. On this last point the Committee feels that the liberalization proposed for pineapple juice and tobacco may swell the already high cost of the Common Agricultural Policy and hurt the interests of the overseas departments and territories and the ACP countries.

Finally, the Committee urges the Commission right now to introduce into the GSP a special "social clause" obliging beneficiary countries to comply with a certain number of minimum labour standards laid down in conventions of the ILO.

(¹) CES 1079/81.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for External Relations under the chairmanship of Mr de Précigout (France - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Cremer (Germany - Workers).

9. CUSTOMS EXEMPTION

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) introducing arrangements for movement within the Community of goods sent from one Member State for temporary use in one or more other Member States”

Gist of the Commission proposal

The aim of the Proposal, which is based on Article 235 of the Treaty of Rome, is to reduce the number of regulations in force at frontiers on goods removed from one Member State for use for a certain period of time in the territory of one or more other Member States and then to be returned to the Member State of departure.

The new arrangements provide for two procedures:

- a standard procedure which comprises exemption from lodging a guarantee — with a few exceptions;
- a simplified procedure for goods to be exhibited or used at an exhibition; press, radio or television equipment, sports equipment, etc., whose value does not exceed 10,000 ECU's. It is intended to make out a certificate, valid for one year, which will allow the same transit conditions as those already in force for passenger traffic.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In an Opinion, adopted unanimously, the Committee welcomes the proposal and the fact that it takes the form of a Regulation, because this ensures uniform practice in all the Member States.

The proposal for a Regulation is regarded as a significant step towards realization of the freedom of movement for goods and services that is necessary for the Community's internal market. The proposal is calculated to underline the preferential character of the Community's internal market and remove any bureaucratic obstacles still remaining, for example in cases where an order is placed in a foreign country.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of

⁽¹⁾ CES 1069/81.

Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Broicher (Germany - Employers).

10. COMMUNITY INFORMATION SYSTEM

“Proposal for a Council Decision relating to the coordination of the activities of the Member States and Community Institutions with a view to setting up a Community inter-institutional information system”; and the “Proposal for a Council Decision concerning the coordination of the actions of Member States and the Commission related to activities preparatory to a long-term programme for the use of telematics for Community information systems concerned with imports/exports and the management and financial control of agricultural market organizations”

Gist of the Commission’s proposals

The aim of the first Proposal is that the Member States and the Community Institutions and bodies shall coordinate with the Commission a series of activities with a view to preparing an outline design programme leading to the development and implementation of a Community inter-institutional integrated services information system (INSIS) which will develop the use of new electronics technologies for exchanges of information, according to jointly-agreed conventions.

The aim of the second proposal is that the Member States shall coordinate with the Commission a series of preparatory activities with a view to the elaboration of a concerted ten-year development programme for the use of telematics systems for the processing of data on imports/exports and on the management and financial control of agricultural market organizations.

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

In a unanimously adopted Opinion, the Committee welcomes the draft decisions but considers that the aims set out in the proposals cannot be attained unless certain technical and organisational requirements are met. It will be necessary to have integrated systems which are compatible and can be operated decentrally.

As regards the Commission’s proposal to set up an information system in the field of agricultural market organizations, the Committee hopes that this will make it possible to simplify and speed up the management of the customs union, foreign trade and the agricultural

⁽¹⁾ CES 1070/81.

market organizations. This is considered by the Committee to be particularly important for Community integration.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Industry, Commerce, Crafts and Services under the chairmanship of Mr van Campen (Netherlands - Employers). The Rapporteur was Mr Nierhaus (Germany - Workers).

11. INTERREGIONAL AIR SERVICES

“Proposal for a Council Regulation concerning the authorization of scheduled interregional air services for the transport of passengers, mail and cargo between Member States”

Gist of the Committee Opinion⁽¹⁾

This Opinion was adopted by 105 votes in favour, 2 votes against and 6 abstentions.

Air transport services are an important part of the transport infrastructure linking regions of the Community. The Committee agrees that there is a need to improve and develop interregional air transport as a part of the Common Transport Policy, as a means of helping regional development, improving mobility, creating employment and promoting social progress. It is also in favour of measures which can provide a stimulus for demand for EEC manufactured aircraft and airport equipment and for creating employment in new services and the activities linked to them. (Air transport services are an important part of the transport infrastructure linking regions of the Community). The Community therefore welcomes any initiative which will help to achieve these objectives.

In order to reflect as far as possible these different views about how to achieve the broad Community objectives, the Committee recommends that the following points be taken into account in formulating Community policy in this field:

Expansion of interregional air services in Europe would not be encouraged by an open skies policy along the lines of the de-regulation regime introduced in the United States. The Committee believes that such a policy would not be in the interests of airlines, workers or users. It considers that Community intervention must aim to achieve a balance between total liberalization and restrictive bilateral systems. The primary objective must be to improve interregional air links.

⁽¹⁾ CES 1074/81.

The proposed legislation should be in the form of a Directive rather than a Regulation.

Finally, negative effects on workers and airlines should be avoided by any proposal to encourage the expansion of interregional air transport by direct Community action.

This Opinion was based on material prepared by the Section for Transport and Communications under the chairmanship of Mrs Weber (Germany - Workers). The Rapporteur was Mr Kenna (Ireland - Employers).

CORRIGENDUM

on page 22 of Bulletin No. 8/9-1981. The Rapporteur for item 14 "*Prospectus for Unlisted Companies*" should read "*Mr Hemmer (Luxembourg - Employers)*" and not *Mr Renaud (France - Employers)*.

II

EXTERNAL RELATIONS

THE CHAIRMAN'S ENGAGEMENTS

During the period which has elapsed since the previous Plenary Session, Mr Roseingrave, the Committee's Chairman

- met on 28 September Mr J. Mattson, the Social Affairs Attaché at the United States Diplomatic Mission to the European Communities, in connection with the Committee's official visit to Washington;
- had talks on 28 September with Sir Michael Butler, Chairman of COREPER, to discuss relations between the Committee and COREPER. Mr Roseingrave made a number of proposals concerning contacts between the Chairmen of the Council Working Parties and Committee rapporteurs;
- attended the opening on 29 September of the second Congress of the F.N.V. (Dutch Federation of Trade Unions) in Amsterdam;
- met on 1 October the Chairmen and Secretaries-General of the Belgian Central Council for the Economy and National Council of Labour, in connection with the bilateral relations between the ESC and its national counterparts;
- met on 8 October Mr Lauret, President of the Economic and Social Council of Réunion;
- attended the annual meeting on 9 October of the Presidents and Secretaries-General of the National Economic and Social Councils and the Economic and Social Committee, held in the Hague;
- attended an OECD congress in Paris on 20 and 21 October on Rural Development and Public Administration.

PRESIDENT'S VISIT TO THE US

The President of the ESC paid a visit to the US from 12 to 17 October 1981. The purpose of this visit was a thorough examination of the relationship between the European Community and the United States, as well as the impact of current American policies on the

economic situation in Europe. In this context the delegation, led by Mr Roseingrave, specifically focussed on questions such as monetary policy, budgetary policy and investment policy, including American investment in Europe. Further topics included labour market trends and measures to fight unemployment, energy policy objectives, cooperation in research between the US and the European Community, and, finally, current trade relations.

During his visit, Mr Roseingrave met top-ranking Government officials as well as the Chairmen of the major organizations of both sides of industry. In particular he expressed the concern of the European social and economic groupings regarding the possible consequences of the continuation of the American monetary policy, which affects Europe mainly through pressure on interest and exchange rates. At the same time, the ESC delegation tried to get a better idea of the approach to the new Administration and of main American interest groups towards relations between the US and the European Community.

On this visit Mr Roseingrave was accompanied by the two Vice-Chairmen of the Committee, Mr Laval and Mr Miller as well as by the Secretary-General, Mr Louet.

III

NEW CONSULTATIONS

During the month of October, the Council has asked the Committee for its Opinion on the following subjects:

“Proposal for a Council Directive Amending Council Directive 80/51/EEC on the Limitation of Noise Emissions from Subsonic Aircraft” (COM(81) 512 final)

“Draft Council Decision adopting a Concerted Action Project for the European Economic Community in the field of Shore Based Maritime Navigation Aid Systems” (COM(81) 463 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive on the Supervision of Credit Institutions on a Consolidated Basis” (COM(81) 444 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on Information provided by the Customs Authorities of the Member States on the Classification of Goods under the Customs Nomenclature” (COM(81) 483 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 3164/76 on the Community Quota for the Carriage of Goods by Road between Member States” (COM(81) 520 final)

“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Concerted Action Project of the European Economic Community on the Effect of Processing on the Physical Properties of Foodstuffs (COST Project 90 bis)” (COM(81) 450 final)

“Proposal for a Decision on the Consolidation of Precautionary Measures concerning Chlorofluorocarbons in the Environment” (COM(81) 558 final)

“Draft Council Directive on the Limitation of Noise Emissions from Helicopters” (COM(81) 554 final)

“Proposal for a Council Decision adopting a Sectoral Research and Development Programme of the European Economic Community in the field of Medical and Public Health Research — concerted action — (1982-1986)” (COM(81) 517 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2358/71 on the Common Organization of the Market in Seeds, Regulation (EEC) No. 2727/75 on the Common Organization of the Market in Cereals and Regulation (EEC) No. 950/68 on the Common Customs Tariff”

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 1660/81 Fixing the Amounts of Aid Granted for Seeds for the 1982/83 and 1983/84 Marketing Years” (COM(81) 508 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) amending Regulation (EEC) No. 2511/69 Laying down Special Measures for Improving the Production and Marketing of Community Citrus Fruit” (COM(81) 402 final)

“Proposal for a Council Regulation (EEC) on the Common Organization of the Market in Wine” (COM(81) 408 final)

“Proposal for a Council Decision on General Conditions to be followed for establishing Microbiological Criteria for Foodstuffs and Feeding-stuffs, including the Conditions for their Preparation, in the Veterinary, Foodstuffs and Animal Nutrition sectors” (COM(81) 495 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive on Health Problems affecting Intra-Community Trade in Fresh Meat” (COM(81) 503 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Council Directive 72/462/EEC on Health and Veterinary Inspection Problems upon Importation of Bovine Animals and Swine and Fresh Meat from Third Countries” (COM(81) 496 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 71/118/EEC on Health Problems affecting Trade in Fresh Poultrymeat in respect of Personal responsible for carrying out Health Inspections, Supervision and Control tasks”

“Proposal for a Council Directive concerning the Qualifications of the Personal responsible for carrying out Health Inspection, Supervision and Control Tasks foreseen by Directive 77/99/EEC on Health Problems

affecting Intra-Community Trade in Meat Products” (COM(81) 504 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive on the Notification of Animal Disease within the Community” (COM(81) 497 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive on Health Problems relating to Residues of Antibiotics in Fresh Meat of Community Origin” (COM(81) 501 final)

“Proposal for a Council Directive amending Directive 71/118/EEC on Health Problems affecting Trade in Fresh Poultrymeat” (COM(81) 500 final)

IV

PROVISIONAL FUTURE WORK PROGRAMME

NOVEMBER 1981 PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Fifth medium-term economic policy programme
- Annual economic report 1981
- Noise emission from subsonic aircraft
- Inter-regional air transport
- Community road haulage quota
- Shore based maritime navigation aid systems
- Combined rail/road transport common rules
- Scientific and technical R & D programme
- Raw materials R&D programme 1982-1985
- Thermonuclear fusion research and training programme 1982-1986

Own-Initiative Opinion

- Reflections on the CAP

DECEMBER 1981 PLENARY SESSION

Referrals

- Atmospheric pollution
- Classification of goods in the customs nomenclature
- Health problems: trade in fresh meat
- Animal import health problems

Own-Initiative Opinions

- 6th annual European Regional Development Fund
- Textiles/clothing

Studies

- Community R&D policies' aims and priorities
- Consistency of external policies

JANUARY 1982 PLENARY SESSION**Referrals**

- Information and consultation of workers in transnationals
- 10th competition policy report

Own-Initiative Opinions

- Maldague report
- Coordination of employment policy instruments

SUSEQUENT PLENARY SESSIONS**Referrals**

- Annual accounts of banks
- Supervision of credit institutions
- Application of Articles 85 and 86 of the Treaty to air transport
- Maritime transport competition

Own-Initiative Opinions

- Role of small and medium-sized enterprises
- European Development Fund annual report
- Common transport policy

Studies

- Regional policy integrated operations
- Turkey

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- Annual Report (1981) ... (Ex-30-80)
- Directory — List of Members (January 1981) (ESC-81-001)
- The Right of initiative of the Economic and Social Committee (October 1977) 124 p.

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- EEC's Transport Problems with East European Countries (December 1977) (Opinion) 164 p.
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- Progress Report on the Common Agricultural Policy (February 1975) (Study) 52 p.)
- The Situation of Small and Medium-sized Undertakings in the European Community (March 1975) (Study) 69 p.



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